RECREATION RESOURCE
(CHOLMONDELEY MANAGEMENT UNIT)

INTRODUCTION

The Cholmondeley Management Unit borders two areas in which special recreation attractions have been identified in the Multiple Use Plan. The recreation values of both the Eudora and Copper Mountain areas will be taken into consideration in planning this unit.

Presently, the unit receives light recreation use; the determining factor probably being its location relative to population areas. It is approximately 15 air miles and 22 miles by boat from Ketchikan to the eastern edge of Cholmondeley. Air travel to inland areas is limited because of the absence of lakes large enough to land on. Adverse water conditions in Clarence Strait often restricts access by small boat. It is anticipated that increased use will develop slowly as areas presently more accessible receive greater levels of use and, therefore, are less attractive to those recreationists who desire an isolated experience.

Recreation Inventory Methodology

For this study, we used a new method to quantify and evaluate the recreation resource. It is patterned after the work done by Gordon Sanford and described in his pilot study publication printed April 1972. Because of time and localized conditions, the process was adjusted to accomplish the more immediate needs of the Cholmondeley Management Unit and was not used on a comparative basis covering the entire planning unit (Prince of Wales Island) as would be desirable. Briefly, the process which is being developed amounts to examining the management unit and identifying each scope of land that differs significantly from surrounding or adjacent places. The resulting sub-units, 10 in this case, were then evaluated and assigned recreation quality ratings based primarily on opportunities rather than activities or demand functions. The study was also divided into the dispersed and intensive phase for inventory purposes.

Dispersed Phase

Five perceivable or measurable characteristics were used to determine the numeric quality rating for each sub-unit. These characteristics and the criteria used to evaluate them are as follows:

1. Experience Level

    a. Challenge and associated skills
    b. Isolation
    c. Solitude
    d. Achievement

2. Environment

    a. Degree of Modification
    b. Ownership and use Conflicts
    c. Fauna
    d. Recreation Diversity
    e. Scientific and Educational Opportunities

3. Visual Quality

    a. Visibility
    b. Visual Complexity
    c. Physiographic Elements
    d. Waterform Features
    e. Flora-Fauna
    f. Discordant Factors

4. Boating Opportunity

    a. Water Quality
    b. Accessibility
    c. Obstacles & Hazards
    d. Anchorages
    e. Recreational Shorelines
    f. Visual Quality

5. Freshwater Fishing

    Rick Reed of the Alaska Department of Fish & Game evaluated the freshwater fishing for the management unit. Our numeric rating is based on his analysis.

The attached base map and recreation overlay for the Dispersed Phase shows the sub-units and their numeric ratings. The ratings for units 5 and 6 are shown here to illustrate the wide range in quality that exists between units.

Characteristics	Ratings	
	Unit #5	Unit #6
Experience Level	19	4
Environment	23	9
Visual Quality	26	10
Boating Opportunity	25	0
Freshwater Fishing	26	0
Final Quality Ratings	119	23

It is readily apparent that Unit #5 has more and higher quality recreational oppotunities than does Unit #6. This information will be used to both guide an orderly development plan for the area and also to reveal possible land use conflicts.

Intensive Phase

The intensive phase is essentially a catalogue and description of what is known about the area. This information is recorded on the attached base map and briefly described as follows:

1. Chasina Island - This reportedly is the first place the Haidas landed when they first came from the west coast. The entire island was cleared of timber and a fort established. A dense stand of second growth timber bears out the story that the entire island was cleared of timber many years ago. No direct evidence of occupancy was found during our inspection of the island.

2. Chasina Anchorage - This is considered as an all weather anchorage. It is a popular anchorage of local fishermen.

3. Lancaster Cove - This is also a popular all weather anchorage.

4. Babe Islands - A Forest Service special-use permittee lives on the southern tip of the largest of these islands. A limited number of Yew trees have also been observed on some of these islands.

5. Mines and Prospects - The Croesus prospect was discovered in 1892 and is located about one-miles above the head of a small bay that lies along the east shore of Kitkun Bay. Some rich ores were found but the prospect proved disappointing and was abandoned in 1902.

The Gladstone prospect is a very early discovery and is located in back of Lancaster Cove. Most of the old workings were of open cuts. No work has been done since shortly after the discovery.

There is a large block of patented mining claims located across the top of Green Monster Mountain along the western edge of the management unit. There is evidence of old prospects on the claims, but not much is known about them. This general area is well known for the fine specimens of epidote crystals that it has produced.

6. Kitkun Salt Chuck - A myriad of sea life abounds along the rock walls and bottom of the chuck. In our examination of this area, we observed giant barnacles, sea anenomes, sea cucumbers, gum boots, star fish, sea urchins, snails and blue mussells.

Yew trees were also observed along the shores near the salt chuck.

7. National Forest Recreation Survey Sites - Starting in 1959, a Forest Service team inventoried potential recreation areas on the Forest. Eight of these sites are located within the management unit and are shown on the base map.

8. Seal Rookeries - Two possible seal rookeries are located in Cholmondeley Sound: one about 1-1/2 miles from the head of the west arm and one about two mile from the head of South Arm.

9. Saltery - An old salmon saltery used to exist on 9.24 acres of patented land located on the north shore of Sunny Cove near its entrance. It has long been abandoned and little remains as evidence of its past occupancy.

10. Chomley Cannery - This cannery was located in a small bay on the southern shore of West Arm about five miles from the head of the Arm. It occupies 21.42 acres of patented lands. All that remains of the cannery are numerous pilings and some collapsed buildings.

11. Eagle Nests - The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service made an eagle nest survey of a large portion of the management unit. They inventoried 14 nests. An additional five nests were found outside of the surveyed area for a total of 19 nests.

12. Portage Trail - It is not known when this trail was built, but it was being used in the late 1800's or early 1900's to transport mail and supplies to the west coast of Prince of Wales Island. Remnants of the trail suggests that it was a major trail, being six feet or greater in width. Sections of corduroying can still be found along the trail.

Recommendations

1. General Recommendations

a. All timber harvest and support facilities should comply with present Multiple Use guidelines.

b) Limit the area to one land based logging campsite to harvest the timber of the area.

c) Roads planned are primarily for single resource purposes and should, therefore, be screened from view from the boating public. Borrow pits should be totally screened from the waterways.

d) With the limited number of all weather anchorages, only one major anchorage at any one time should be used for timber harvest support such as for log dumps or storage areas. These should not be logged in a way which will adversely affect the wind patterns of the anchorage.

e) Log dumps should be located and designed to be as unobstrusive as possible and their number kept to a minimum.

2. Specific Recommendations

a) Dora Bay (Unit #5). This unit received our highest rating of all 10 units. It has exceptional scenic attractions such as the sheer cliffs at the head of Dora Bay and a good view of Eudora Mountain. The trout fishing in Dora Creek is reportedly good. In fact, we observed one steelhead and several small trout when we examined the stream. The sense of solitude and isolation that can be experienced in the Dora Lake area is far greater than that which can be experienced in any of the other nine units. This area would probably rate as outstanding if compared with other sites on Prince of Wales Island.

We recommend that before any cutting takes places in this unit, it should receive additional study for possible classification as a special zone i.e. scenic or geologic. No roads should be built within the unit. If timber is harvested from the unit, it should be by selective cutting methods.

b) Kitkun Salt Chuck (Unit #2). Because of the exceptional aggregation of sea life in this area, it is recommended that a wind firm leave area be kept along both sides of the salt chuck.

Another reason for the leave area would be to protect the few yew trees that grow along the shores in this area. This appears to be the northern limit of this species. The only other place that it is known to exist on Prince of Wales Island is along the shores of Klakas Inlet.

Yew wood has long been used by Alaska natives to construct halibut hooks. It is still used for this purpose.

c) Chasina Island (Unit #1). No timber should be harvested from this island until the historic and archeological values have been determined.

d) Portage Trail (Unit #9). The historic values of this trail should be determined before timber is harvested along it.

e) NFRS Sites - These eight sites should be examined in greater detail before timber that will materially influence their recreational values is harvested.

f) Seal Rookeries (Unit 9 & 7). The recommendation of a wildlife or marine biologist should be sought before timber is harvested adjacent to the rookeries.

g) Timber Sale Administration Office - It is planned to have a Forest Service administrative cabin located on land at Sunny Cove. If this is required, it should be planned as a single purpose facility and not double as a recreation cabin. Sites with higher recreation values exist in the unit.

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VISUAL RESOURCE

The following generalized comments are based on one day of field observations and are related to the visual sensitivity of the Chomley Management Unit. The resource concern is for the possible implications of allocating roading and clearcut harvest units with scenic and qualitative values contained in the recreation inventory study.

West Arm - South Arm

While West Arm was not visited in the field, it has landscape characteristics similar to South Arm. Both areas are 8-10 miles in length with strong focal views toward the end of the arm. The major views are framed by the continuous steep slopes which rise from the shoreline to the high country. Most areas viewed adjacent the major waterway are foreground views. Both have several short side drainages which lead into the arms.

Divide Head serves as the orientation point upon leaving either area. Almost all areas viewed would be classified as L1 zones using the Visual Absorption Capability (VAC) rating method. The implications of clearcut logging can be readily observed in South Arm. These areas would classify as simple or low in complexity with foreground viewing conditions in which size would be actual rather than apparent.

The continuous smooth shoreline and the steep slope conditions offer little opportunity for screening dump and roading facilities. The desirability of fringe areas should be judged on an individual basis, generally they are not that purposeful.

Distribution of cutting units would be of some value if used with timing considerations. The areas directly adjacent south and west arm do not have the natural characteristics to "absorb" clearcut logging and the decision to continue to use this type of logging is a management decision and not one of designing or locating harvest units using landscape management techniques; as the areas do not have the capacity to carry the resulting impact.

The drainages off South and West Arm offer good opportunities to develop the timber and the location and design of dump facilities will require site considerations. There should be a minimum number of dumps with the absence of a developed "sorting pad" with bulkhead, if possible. Where the typical dump facilities are constructed, the plan should incorporate design controls and rehabilitation plans as part of the sale contract.

Divide Head

Timber harvest and roading systems should be planned as a unit. The area offers greater topographic complexity than the adjoining areas, but development will require careful design and layout to reduce the long-term impacts. The broken landforms present opportunities to utilize landscape management principles to create cutting units in foreground situations. Because of the units locational sensitivity, careful layout studies will be necessary prior to field layout. Small dispersed cutting units will be required, considerably smaller than the 160 maximum size requirements, roading should be screened or developed adjacent leave areas.

Dora Bay

Concur with the recreation report.

Chomly Sound - Kitkun Bay

Opportunities appear quite good to strive for a compatibility between the visual resource and timber development. The area should be VAC mapped from saltwater and the larger freshwater lakes prior to timber layout. This will guide an orderly development of various sensitivity zones through all entries of harvest.

The areas between the entrance of Dora Bay and Kitkun Bay extends into Cholmondeley Sound and occupies a visually significant foreground position. The 3 - 4 miles of shoreline has sustained recent logging activities with a 250± unit on the north. There presently exists a proposal for a 95 acre unit between existing cutting units. Should this unit (Wildman No. 1) be logged, it would create logging on 80 - 90% of the foreground area. The visual characteristics of the area cannot sustain this degree of cutting and the entire unit should be left for a future entry based on the recent cutting unit impact.

Camp and dump locations will require site design and should be coordimated with the dispersed and intensive phase of recreation.

There should be compelling reasons for any timber harvest on the small islands.

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